

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0006] as follows:

[0006] The invention also relates to a method for determining which intervertebral prosthesis from a plurality of intervertebral prostheses with different hinge radius is suitable for replacing a cervical intervertebral disk. This method is distinguished in that the hinge radius of the affected joint is determined and a prosthesis with a hinge radius approximating to this hinge radius is selected. In this context, the hinge radius 20 is to be understood as the distance between the center of the hinge movement and the midpoint of the prosthesis. The method can be implemented by the physician. However, because of the existing damage, the physician will in general no longer be able to determine the movement characteristics of the joint that is to be replaced. He will therefore rely on the manufacturer of the prostheses carrying out suitable tests, whose results can also subsequently be consulted in the literature, and on said manufacturer then assigning the available prostheses, which are put together in sets, to specific intervertebral spaces. The table below shows an example of how the radii of curvature of the slide surfaces are assigned to the individual intervertebral spaces within defined size ranges (in millimeters).

Please amend paragraph [0009] as follows:

[0009] An intervertebral prosthesis made up of a lower cover plate 11, an upper cover plate 12 and a prosthetic core 13 is fitted between the vertebral bodies 1 and 2. The prosthetic core 13 is held securely on the lower cover plate 11 by an undercut ledge 14, running along three sides of the prosthesis, and by a catch 15. With the upper cover plate 12, it forms a spherical slide surface pair 16 having a slide surface radius 17 and a center of curvature 18 which forms the center of movement of the hinge formed by the prosthesis. This means that the cover plates 11, 12 and the vertebrae 1, 2 connected to them are able to execute a relative movement with respect to one another which represents a rotation movement about the center 18 as long as the slide surface pair 16 alone determines the relative movement. In practice, other slide surfaces, namely the

articular facets, are also involved in determining the relative movement, so that the relative movement actually taking place may deviate a little from this. It will however be appreciated that the hinge movement is all the more harmonious, and continuation of the patient's symptoms all the more unlikely, the more the center 18 of the hinge movement defined by the prosthesis agrees with the natural center of movement. The hinge radius 20 is defined independently of the slide surface radius and differs from the latter in that it is measured from the center 18 of the hinge movement to the geometric midpoint of the prosthesis.